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TYCO 17714 (20958-1007)
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: George Jyh-Shann Chou :
: Art Unit: 1742
Serial No.: 10/073,488 :
: Examiner: Wyszomierski, George P.
Filed: February 11, 2002 :
: :
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS :
FOR INDUCTION HEAT :
TREATING ELECTRICAL :
CONTACTS :

DECLARATION OF PRIOR INVENTION

BY BOGDAN OCTAV CIOCIRLAN (37 C.F.R. § 1.131)

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Bogdan Octav Ciocirlan, whose address is 26 Woodmere Bldg., Middletown, PA 17057,
declares as follows:

1. This declaration is to establish conception of the invention claimed in the above-referenced application at a date prior to December 21, 2001.
2. I have reviewed and understand the patent application referenced in the caption above (hereafter "Subject Application"), including the specification, abstract, drawings and claims therefor.
3. I have reviewed United States Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0115749 titled "Inductive Heating of Microelectronic Components" filed on December 21, 2001 and published June 26, 2003, which, on information and belief, is being relied on in at least one rejection of the claims of the Subject Application (hereafter "Antedated Reference").

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- 4. I am a co-inventor with George Jyh-Shann Chou of the invention(s) recited in the claims of the Subject Application (hereafter "Claimed Invention").**
- 5. The Claimed Invention of the Subject Application was conceived by my co-inventor and me before December 21, 2001 which is the filing date of the Antedated Reference.**
- 6. As evidence that the Claimed Invention of the Subject Application was conceived before the filing date of the Antedated Reference, attached is a true and accurate copy of a preliminary invention disclosure (PID number 2001153) (hereafter "PID 2001153") that was prepared in connection with the Subject Application (see Attachment A).**
- 7. PID 2001153 is dated June 28, 2001 and is entitled "Apparatus for Heat Treating of Micro Contact Components" and includes one cover page, two pages of text and three pages of drawings attached thereto describing and illustrating the invention that was conceived.**
- 8. Figure 1 of the drawings attached to the PID 2001153 illustrates a cross sectional view of a contact with property gradient values in terms of Vicker micro hardness numbers along the micro contact after induction heating.**
- 9. Figure 2 of the drawings attached to the PID 2001153 illustrates a comparison of stress relaxation data of an "as plated" contact, an "oven heated" contact and a contact after heat treatment in accordance with the Claimed Invention.**
- 10. Figure 3 of the drawings attached to the PID 2001153 illustrates a sketch of an apparatus for heat treating micro contacts in accordance with the Claimed Invention.**
- 11. Figures 1-3 were prepared on or before the date of the PID 2001153 of June 28, 2001.**
- 12. As indicated in the PID 2001153, at least one working model or prototype utilizing the Claimed Invention was constructed on or about February 8, 2001.**

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13. The working model or prototype of the invention included the features shown in Figure 1 and the stress relaxation characteristics shown in graph C of Figure 2.

14. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Bogdan Ciocirlan 8/11/06
Bogdan Octav Ciocirlan (Date)